

LIFE IS A JOURNEY  
*enjoy the ride!*



New Covenant Presbyterian Church  
April 23, 2023                      10:00am Service



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# The Worship of God

April 23, 2023    Third Sunday of Easter

## Welcome and Announcements

## Sharing Our Vision

## Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



*When Jesus first appeared to the disciples after his resurrection, they didn't recognize him until they had seen the wounds on his body. When they claimed they had seen Jesus who was alive, Thomas wanted proof. The next week, Jesus appeared to Thomas, and again, it was seeing the wounds that convinced Thomas that he truly was the Risen Christ. In other words, Thomas is just like the rest of the disciples for, until they have seen Jesus' wounds, no one recognized him. So, there's no need to make an example*

*out of Thomas; he's just like the rest of the disciples – no better – no worse.*

*At various times through life, we catch ourselves saying "If only God would give me a sign..." This is most frequently heard on the lips of those who have endured a crisis of faith that shook their confidence in God, just like Thomas. What things cause you to doubt? When is your faith challenged? These are persistent questions asked by many.*

## Preparing to Meet God

### Call to Worship

- L:**        The Christian faith is founded on the resurrection of our Lord, an historic and spiritual reality.
- P:**        ***We believe Jesus rose from the dead and raises us to new life which continues beyond the grave.***
- L:**        We, who have not seen Jesus, believe because the early church believed what they saw, and proclaimed it in each generation.
- P:**        ***We believe what we have heard because, through God's Spirit, we are given the faith to believe.***
- A:**        ***Thanks be to God for this wonderful gift!***

### Hymn # 104

*Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

*1-Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!  
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: All creation is amazed.  
In the desert all surrounding, See, a spreading tree has grown.  
Healing leaves of grace abounding, bring a taste of love unknown.*

*2-Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.  
Walk with gladness in the morning, see what love can do and dare.  
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend,  
Jesus is our strong companion, joy and peace shall never end.*

*3-Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.  
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.  
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"  
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna, everyone!*

### Prayer of Confession

***We believe that the Good News of Jesus' resurrection ought to be told to the ends of the earth, O God. And yet, our tongues are tied when we are asked to share our faith. Forgive us for the silence of our lips when others depend on us to understand the true meaning of life. Loosen our tongues and use our lives to inspire others to look to Christ for salvation, that our friends may not be lost to sin due to our negligence. And now, holy God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and to seek your forgiveness.....Amen.***

### Assurance of Pardon

**L:** Hear the Good News: Jesus is alive and holds the keys of life and death.

**P:** ***Jesus is the first and the last and is the Son of God. He is forgiving and desires to give us abundant life.***

**L:** Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel -

**P:** ***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and freed for new life.***

## Meeting God in the Word

### Children's Message/Prayer for Illumination

**First Lesson**     *Psalm 150*     *Praise for God's Surpassing Greatness*     *Lay Leader*

*Let  
everything  
that  
has breath  
praise  
the Lord.  
Psalm 150:6*

*Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!*

*Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!*

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.     **P:** ***Thanks be to God.***

**Second Reading***John 20: 19-31 The Disciples Meet Jesus Behind Closed Doors**Carol*

*When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you*

*forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'*

*But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'*

*A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'*

*Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.*

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.    **P:** *Thanks be to God.*

**Sermon***Our Mission: Faith Creation**Responding to the Word***Hymn # 399***We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight**Sung to tune of Amazing Grace*

*1-We walk by faith and not by sight;  
No gracious words we hear,  
From Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke;  
But we believe him near.*

*3-Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;  
And may our faith abound  
To call on you when you are near  
And seek where you are found.*

*2-We may not touch his hands and side,  
Nor follow where he trod;  
But in his promise we rejoice,  
And cry, "My Lord and God!"*

*4-That, when our life of faith is done,  
In realms of clearer light  
We may behold you as you are,  
With full and endless sight.*



## Litany of Faith



**L:** Are you disciples of the One called Christ?

**P:** ***Our hands have touched the holes in his palms and our eyes have seen the wound in his side. We have known suffering and received his peace. Yes, we are disciples of the One called Christ.***

**L:** You were commanded not to teach in his name and yet you fill the world with the sound of your teaching.

**P:** ***The spirit of Easter has anointed our lips. We must obey God rather than human beings.***

**L:** You were commanded not to make peace in his name, yet you fill the world with love and reconciliation.

**P:** ***The spirit of Easter has anointed our hearts and minds. We must obey God rather than human beings.***

**A:** ***The spirit of Easter has fallen upon us to preach Good News to the poor and proclaim release to the captives. We have seen and we believe. Therefore, we will spread the Good News and work towards changing the unbelief of the world into belief in Christ Jesus!***

## Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Cares Chorus: *I cast all my cares upon you. I lay all of my burdens down at your feet. And anytime, I don't know what to do, I cast all my cares upon you.*

### The Call to Celebrate Our Gifts

*God provided all that we need, and so we are called to return a portion of our blessings to God to be used in God's service. We so appreciate all that each of you shares for our church's ministry. May we all give sacrificially for God's glory.*

Prayer of Dedication: Gracious God, you have given us the ultimate gift in the death and resurrection of your Son. We humbly offer these gifts to you. Consecrate them to your use that the ministry of this congregation might serve as a witness to those who still doubt. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Going Out to Serve

### Hymn # 391

### Take My Life

*1-Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*2-Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for thee,  
Swift and beautiful for thee.*

*3-Take my voice, and let me sing,  
Always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be  
Filled with messages from thee,  
Filled with messages from thee.*

*4-Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect, and use  
Every power as thou shalt choose,  
Every power as thou shalt choose.*

## Blessing

L: As God sent Christ to us, so now Christ sends us out into the world.

**P: *Let us not lock ourselves in the upper room.***

L: Let us go out into the streets and do as he asks,

**P: *Allowing his grace to overpower our doubts and his peace to overcome our fears.***

L: And may the blessings of God.....

## Response

*He is Lord – He is Lord. He has risen from the dead, and he is Lord.  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.*

